ABSTRACT

5   The present invention provides an apparatus and system for buffering data

in a communication network with an arranged priority which enables traffic

shaping. A cell buffer unit (600) is arranged with a plurality of queues (614)

configured to store PDUs on-chip and off-chip. There are associated queues both

on-chip and off-chip for each priority queue. A cell buffer controller (620)

10   forwards PDUs to a predetermined priority queue and manages the transfer of

PDUs off-chip when a priority queue on-chip is fully occupied. The controller

(620) also manages the transfer of PDUs from the off-chip queue when the on-

chip priority queue becomes less than fully occupied.